In the publications Navickas was accused of laundering the former communist party property and using it for personal needs.

Navickas denied these accusations, but he suspended his membership in the Lithuanian Labour Democratic Party (LDDP) until "all the circumstances would be clearified".

Seimas also entrusted the Commission on the Economic Crimes to investigate the distribution of the former communist property. The State Control Department should carry out investigations on the inventory of the property.

These decisions were adopted by the majority vote of LDDP faction in Seimas. The right-wing opposition did not take part in the vote.

<B>STATOIL PLANS TO SET UP 20 FILLING STATIONS<D>

VILNIUS, May 4, ELTA - A filling-station of the Norweglan Statoil Company was officially opened in Vilnius on Thursday.

The Company started its activities in Lithuania last autumn. Two filling stations are currently in operation in Vilnius and Kaunas. They cost the Company over US$1 million each.

A representative of the Norwegian state-owned Petrol and Gas Company Statoil, Johny Ohlsson, said it was the largest oil-extractor from the North Sea and its major dealer in the Western Europe. Last year the Statoil's turnover totalled to the sum of US $ 14 billion.

In the course of the next three to four years, the company intends to set up approximately 20 filling-stations which will employ five hundred Lithuanians.

Oil products are now transported from Tallinn and later on they will be received via the terminal station in Riga.

The company plans to build its own petrol and diesel oil reservoir close to Vilnius. Its planned investments in the Lithuanian economy will amount to US $ 30 to 35 million.

Johny Ohlsson said the company was expecting to become leader in the Lithuanian petrol market despite strong competitors, such as the Neste and Shell Companies.

The network of filling and service stations are first to be established in the areas of Vilnius and Kaunas, and then Klaipeda and Siauliai. END